



NCLEJ in the Courts

NCLEJ is a national leader in using litigation to make sure that low-income people get the benefits they are entitled to and that government agencies administer programs fairly. NCLEJ's litigation has improved the lives of tens of thousands of vulnerable families and individuals. We have ensured their access to Medicaid, food stamps, and cash assistance, protected their civil rights, and improved their opportunities to move out of poverty.

Editorial praise from the Denver Post:

"Sometimes nothing gets a bureaucrat to take notice better than a court order."

When government agencies fail to provide benefits to eligible individuals or to administer programs fairly, low-income people may have to turn to the courts to secure their rights. Litigation is a critical tool – and sometimes the only effective tool – to ensure that agencies comply

with the law. Litigation promotes government accountability by challenging agencies that have lost sight of their legal obligations. It helps to focus broader public attention on the harms suffered by low-income people and can be part of broader efforts to remedy them.

NCLEJ's litigation program includes:

- leading or co-counseling impact litigation across the country;
- shaping winning legal strategies to secure fair and lawful administration of benefit programs;
- marshaling resources in the private bar and public interest communities to pursue impact litigation and representation; and
- educating and supporting colleagues engaged in similar advocacy.

Help Us Win the Fight for Economic Justice!



Every day our lawyers work on behalf of people:

- who can't afford health coverage for themselves and their children.
- who are stuck in minimum-wage jobs – when they can get jobs at all – because they have no training and often little schooling.
- who can't go to work because they lack decent childcare, have a disability, or can't afford the bus fare to get to work.
- who have inadequate housing – or no housing – following disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

We cannot do it alone. We must rely on the generosity of those who believe in our work.

To make a tax-deductible donation to NCLEJ, please visit our website (www.nclej.org) or send a check to:

National Center for Law and Economic Justice
275 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1506
New York, NY 10001-6708

To learn more about the range of ways to support NCLEJ, please contact us at 212-633-6967.

National Center for Law and Economic Justice

Advancing the cause of economic justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities across the country



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NCLEJ'S Unique Role

The vision of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) is a society in which low-income individuals and families have the support they need to maintain a decent standard of living and take full advantage of opportunities to better their lives.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Henry Freedman, NCLEJ's highly qualified staff pursues this vision by assuring that all low-income people can gain access to the full range of vital public benefits and services for which they are eligible. When current laws and program practices are not sufficient, we work diligently for effective reforms.



Since 1965, NCLEJ has worked throughout the country using a unique combination of on-the-ground litigation, policy advocacy, and support for grassroots organizing.



Our Values

Because NCLEJ's Board and staff believe that this nation should strive to ensure that no one lives in poverty, we subscribe to the following values:

INCOME SECURITY:

Income security is a basic goal and fundamental defense against poverty.

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT:

Low-income people should have full opportunity to participate in all forms of education, training, and services to help them secure and retain living wage jobs.

FAIR TREATMENT:

Fairness must be the foundation of government administration.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY:

Governmental decision-making and administration should be open, accessible, and responsive to constituents.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE:

Low-income people must have effective access to the justice system to challenge violations of their rights, secure effective relief, and gain greater public accountability.

FAIR AND SAFE WORKPLACE:

All workers should be assured a safe workplace, a living wage, and full protection from discrimination.

COMMUNITY ACTION:

Community action and coalition building should be encouraged at the local, state, and national level as powerful strategies for social change.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION:

Low-income individuals and their communities should have a voice in shaping the public policies that affect their lives.

NCLEJ's Far-Reaching Advocacy Agenda

NCLEJ has forged an ambitious agenda of litigation, policy advocacy, and support for low-income organizing to advance the cause of economic justice for low-income families and individuals throughout this country. We are fortunate to work in partnership with policymakers, national public interest advocates, private law firms, legal services lawyers, academics, and grassroots groups.

LITIGATION

NCLEJ is a national leader in using class action litigation to protect the legal rights of low-income families and individuals to public benefits and to hold governmental agencies accountable for their administration of these vital programs. We litigate in federal and state courts across the country and partner with other public interest groups and the private bar.



POLICY ADVOCACY

NCLEJ uses its expertise to identify and promote the adoption and proper implementation of creative and effective policies to improve the delivery of public benefits to low-income families and individuals. Our advocacy efforts include convening targeted meetings and national conference calls, publishing groundbreaking reports on key issues facing low-income people, presenting at local and national conferences, and collaborating closely with policymakers and other advocates.

SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

Throughout its history, NCLEJ has worked with and in support of grassroots groups of low-income people who seek to participate in the democratic process.

This work is supported through the efforts of our dedicated Board of Directors, which includes attorneys, legal scholars, and client representatives from across the country.